

# 03

MARK 3:20-35

## JESUS'S FAMILY

### THIS WEEK'S **focus**

Jesus wasn't alone here on earth: He had His heavenly Father and the Holy Spirit. However, He was probably lonely a lot of the time. He was surrounded by people who didn't fully get Him. His closest friends often misunderstood Him. Even His own mother didn't know what to make of Him, and she had known Him His whole life! Today, we'll see how Jesus responded to the doubts of His family and the false accusations of religious leaders. We'll be relieved to discover that we can know Jesus much better than they did at that time. In fact, through faith, we're made part of His family.



### CENTRAL **truth**

When we put our faith in Jesus for salvation, we become children of God.



EXPLORE

# scripture

MARK 3:20-35

## MARK 3:20-21

20 Jesus entered a house, and the crowd gathered again so that they were not even able to eat. 21 When his family heard this,

they set out to restrain him, because they said, “He’s out of his mind.”

## MARK 3:22-30

22 The scribes who had come down from Jerusalem said, “He is possessed by Beelzebul,” and, “He drives out demons by the ruler of the demons.” 23 So he summoned them and spoke to them in parables: “How can Satan drive out Satan? 24 If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. 25 If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. 26 And if Satan opposes himself and is divided, he cannot

stand but is finished. 27 But no one can enter a strong man’s house and plunder his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man. Then he can plunder his house. 28 “Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for all sins and whatever blasphemies they utter. 29 But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin” — 30 because they were saying, “He has an unclean spirit.”

## MARK 3:31-35

31 His mother and his brothers came, and standing outside, they sent word to him and called him. 32 A crowd was sitting around him and told him, “Look, your mother, your brothers, and your sisters are outside asking for you.” 33 He replied to them,

“Who are my mother and my brothers?”

34 Looking at those sitting in a circle around him, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! 35 Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.”

# DAILY devotions

## MEMORIZE MARK 3:24

### 7 ARROWS FOR BIBLE READING



What does this passage say?



What does this passage tell us about God?



What did this passage mean to its original audience?



How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



What does this passage tell us about humans?



How does this passage prompt me to pray?



What does this passage demand of me?

day 1

# MARK 3:20-21

## DWELL

Jesus's behavior—and the public's response to it—made His family nervous. They were probably worried for Him but even more concerned for their own reputation. Jesus had been doing some wacky stuff and butting heads with influential people. They knew most people would only do those things if they were crazy, so they assumed that's what had happened to Jesus. Their problem was expecting Jesus to think and act like any other human when He was also God.



When have you made the mistake of assuming Jesus thinks and acts like you? What was the result?



What can you do to make sure what you believe about Jesus is actually true?

## MEMORIZE

Write Mark 3:24 on a few sticky notes, and put the notes in places you will see them throughout the day. When you see one, stop and read it out loud.

## PRAY

Thank God for sending a Savior who isn't exactly like you. Ask God to teach you about Himself and help you see things from His perspective.

day 2

# MARK 3:22-30

## DWELL

Jesus's response to the scribes was a humble flex. He didn't even owe them an answer. His actions spoke for themselves. He had just cast out demons over which they had no control, demons they feared in a big way. The scribes thought they had power, but Jesus was the one with authority in that room. Even so, He didn't call them names or accuse them directly. He just told them what would happen to people who did what they had done, leaving them to deal with their own guilt while He paid attention to the common people.

↑ What does Jesus's defense teach you about the wisdom, character, and power of God?

↓ What have you learned from this story that will help you tell whether a person is living in obedience to God or not?

## MEMORIZE

Write down Mark 3:24 in a journal or on a note card, and circle any words that feel important. Look at just those words for a few moments, then close your eyes and say them. When you can get them all right without looking, try doing the same thing with the whole verse.

## PRAY

Praise God for being wise, patient, truthful, and kind. Ask Him to remind you to show those same characteristics when people treat you unfairly.

day 3

# MARK 3:31-35

## DWELL

The people sitting around Jesus knew His mother and brothers were waiting for Him. He did, too, but He made no immediate effort to go to them. Jesus cared about His earthly family and wanted to honor them, but as He had explained to His parents when He was twelve (see Luke 2:48-51), His first priority had to be serving His heavenly Father's purpose. So He kept obeying God and let His Father work out the details.

↻ How did Jesus respond to His family's doubt in Him? How can you apply this lesson to your own life?

---

---

↻ How do you know whether you are one of Jesus's brothers and sisters?

---

---

## MEMORIZE

See how much of Mark 3:24 you can remember by writing it down without looking. Check your work. Add or change as necessary and study it. Practice doing this throughout the week until you get it!

## PRAY

Thank God for giving you the chance to join His family through faith in Jesus. Ask Him to show you how to love your brothers and sisters in Jesus better.

day 4

# JAMES 1:1

## DWELL

These words are the introduction to a letter written by Jesus's oldest brother, James. Remember how Jesus's mother and brothers tried to restrain Jesus because they thought He was crazy (see Mark 3:20-22)? Now James was calling himself a "servant" to his own brother! What changed? Jesus appeared to him after His resurrection (see 1 Cor. 15:7). Apparently, seeing your dead brother walking and talking does something to a person! After Jesus's ascension back into heaven, James joined the rest of Jesus's disciples in Jerusalem, and he received the Holy Spirit at Pentecost with everyone else who had faith in Jesus. Skeptics don't always stay skeptics.

↑ What impact should this information have on the way you interact with people who resist the gospel of Jesus?

→ How can you live out James's example of humility?

## MEMORIZE

Try singing Mark 3:24 to the tune of a song you know well. Practice singing the verse to yourself as best as you can throughout the week.

## PRAY

Thank God for not giving up on skeptics. Ask Him to help you do the same. Thank Him for giving you the faith to overcome your own doubts.

day 5

# 1 JOHN 5:6-12

## DWELL

Eternal life is a gift from God, offered freely to those who have faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God. But how do we know that Jesus is really the Son of God? We only need to look at the evidence. Through Scripture, we have not only the testimony of eyewitnesses, but the testimony of God the Father and God the Spirit. We can read about the events of Jesus's baptism, death, and resurrection. When we choose to disbelieve this testimony, we call God a liar, and we reject His gift. We miss out on the hope and promise of being a part of God's family.

← How did the Spirit, the water, and the blood give testimony that Jesus really is who He says He is?

---

---

↔ What should you tell people who think there are many ways to God?

---

---

## MEMORIZE

Try reciting Mark 3:24 from memory. Ask a friend or family member to help you by reminding you of any words you've forgotten.

## PRAY

Thank God for His testimony about Jesus and for the people like the apostle John who wrote down the truth He wanted us to know. Ask God to help you to share gospel truth with the people in your life.